

This month marks the 91st Birthday of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, and it finds us with great sadness over the tragic death of COL Cliff Walker, Commander, U.S. Army Veterinary Command. COL Walker was an outstanding Soldier and Leader who excelled in many key senior veterinary command and staff positions. He led by example, truly committed to the Army, his Soldiers and Civilian employees, and his family. COL Walker will be greatly missed by the Army Medical Department, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, his children and the entire Walker Family.

Our Corps' 91st Birthday is a significant milestone for which we should all be proud. As you know, I think animal health and human health are inextricably linked, and as veterinary professionals, we play essential roles in both, as an integral part of the Army Medical Department. I want to take this opportunity to again express my continuing appreciation to our entire veterinary team for your outstanding support to our military around the globe. Regardless of specialty, rank, component or location, you can and do make important, multifaceted contributions to the health and well-being of our Soldiers, Animals and Families.

As Summer approaches, so does the time for many changes in our Corps personnel. We have some brand new Officers, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted, as well as new Civilian employees. We have some headed to new assignments or military or civilian schools. We have some new Commanders, new Consultants, new senior level staff officers, and even a new assignments officer. We also have an unprecedented number of Veterinary Corps Officers who will assume "Corps-Immaterial Command" positions this summer. And, of course, we have some staying where you are or headed to retirement or other careers outside of our Army.

Whatever your status, wherever you are or going: I am honored that I serve with you. I extend my best wishes in your future, and again, I offer a big "Thank You" for what you have done and are doing for our Army.